Upgradation of Coastal Roads in Gujarat

1775. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Government have sent a proposal for upgradation of Mandvi-Nalia-Narayan Sarovar Road, stretches of the coastal highways connecting the parts of Jakhau-Vadinar-Okha-Porbandar-Dholera Road, Malia-Jamnagar-Okha-Porbandar-Veraval Road and Bhavnagar-Vatanan-Borsad-Padra-Karjan Road into National Highways on priority;and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is going to be accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) All the proposals received from the State Governments, including those of Gujarat, have been returned to them in June 2002 for review based on the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways. Presently, there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to funds constraint. The Government may, however, consider declaration of very limited lengths of a few State Highways as National Highways during the course of the Tenth Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

Affairs of NHAI Office at Agra

1776. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highway Authority of India has a field unit/work office at Agra; and

(b) if so,the details of officers/staff posted there alongwith the details of projects being handled by each of them and status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are Annexed as Statement.